

Young, Alison

From: Brittain, Ross [RBrittai@idem.IN.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 2:52 PM
To: Young, Alison
Cc: Abernathy, Kent; HARTSOCK, AMY; HAUER, GABRIELE
Subject: Indiana Eckel lead site discovery statement

Hello Alison,

Thank you for the follow-up interview today for your article on the historic lead smelter sites in Indiana. Per our phone conversation, IDEM has prepared a statement for USA Today regarding the last of the remaining sites that we recently discovered. The text of that statement is as follows:

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) would like to inform USA Today that the three remaining former Indiana lead smelter sites listed in the Eckel report that had not been found in 2001 have been recently discovered by IDEM staff. Specifically, those sites are Hammond Lead Products (5231 Hohman Avenue, Hammond, IN), Maynard Metals Company (1049 U.S. 41, Schererville, IN), and PB Company (9136 S SR 15, Silver Lake, IN). As the original Memorandums of Decision (MOD) for each of these sites stated in 2001, IDEM did not "intend to continue to investigate the site(s)... unless better location information is received." New research tools that were not available to IDEM in 2001 (e.g., the Internet) greatly facilitated the discovery process when staff re-opened their investigations in January of 2012. The details of each site's discovery and planned course of action are given below.

The 2001 Eckel report listed Hammond Lead Products at 5231 Hohman Avenue, Hammond, Indiana, as a secondary smelter. The Hammond Lead Products website (www.hammondleadproducts.com) provides the history of the company, and stated that it was originally founded in 1920 as Metals Refining Company with one of the largest secondary smelters in the country. However, in 1930 Hammond Lead Products separated from Metals Refining Company to focus on lead oxide manufacturing. The website also listed the address for Hammond Lead Products as 2308 165th St, Hammond, IN. IDEM's original report from 2001 discovered that the 5231 Hohman Avenue address was an office building and did not investigate the site further. The 1958 Hammond City Directory revealed that Hammond Lead Products was listed at two addresses, 5231 Hohman Avenue and 2308 165th St (page 256). That same directory listed 5231 Hohman as the site for the Calumet Building (page 173), which has at least 141 offices, and that Hammond Lead Products used room 514 for storage and rooms 523-528 for undesignated purposes (page 174). Additionally, the 1961 Hammond phone book has an advertisement for Hammond Lead Products with both of the above addresses, and lists the "plant" location as 2308 165th St but does not designate the purpose of the 5231 Hohman Avenue location. On January 20, 2012, IDEM staff talked to the Environmental Manager of Hammond Group (the reformed Hammond Lead Products entity), Jim Bandstra, who informed IDEM that the Hohman location was only ever used for office purposes. Mr. Bandstra also told IDEM that Hammond Group moved those offices to 1414 Field Street sometime between 15 and 30 years ago. He assured IDEM that neither the Hohman nor the 165th Street facilities were used for smelting, and that the 165th Street plant was only ever used to manufacture lead oxides. Mr. Bandstra added that all lead waste was recycled at smelters located in other states. Thus, the 5231 Hohman Avenue location is not a potential source of lead released to the environment. Additionally, the Metals Refining Company, located at 1723 Summer Street in Hammond, was addressed by IDEM in a Memorandum of Decision (MOD), dated January 29, 2010. The MOD stated it "was not a major contributor to high levels of lead that may be found in this area of Hammond, Indiana." The Hammond Lead Products plant at 2308 165th Street was also investigated under a Preliminary Assessment by IDEM in the early 1990s and found that an impoundment that previously held lead silicate had been covered

over with asphalt and no longer posed any threat to the environment or human health. IDEM and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) do not plan any further actions at these facilities at this time.

Maynard Metals Company was listed in the 2001 Eckel report as also being from Hammond, Indiana, but a search of the 1961-62 Hammond phone book by IDEM staff showed that Maynard Metals Co was actually on Rt. 41 in Schererville, Lake County, Indiana. The 1977 phone book listing for Maynard Metals Co said to "see Mason Metals Co." Additionally, the 1983 phone book listed the address of Mason Metals Co at 1049 US 41, Schererville, Indiana. The Mason Metals website (www.tinchemical.com) still lists them at the same address. A June 30, 2010, document from the Court of Appeals of Indiana regarding the number of shares of Mason Corporation owned by the estate of Don Mason stated that Maynard Metals was incorporated by Ralph Mason and Clyde (Maynard) Teegarden in 1950. The court document also indicated the articles of incorporation were amended to change the name to Mason Metals Company, Inc. in 1976. A call to Tim Mason of Mason Metals by IDEM staff revealed that the company has only dealt with the reclamation and manufacture of tin-based chemicals and did not operate a lead smelter, and there are indeed no smoke stacks at this site. IDEM's documents on Mason Metals showed that the site was once enrolled in IDEM's Voluntary Remediation Program, but withdrew from the program in 2007. The site is currently being addressed for tin and solvent releases to the environment by the EPA under a RCRA Closure Plan, and is not eligible for CERCLA action.

The 2001 Eckel report also listed "Pb Co" from Fort Wayne, Allen County, Indiana as a secondary lead smelter, but all searches of the Fort Wayne phone books, city directories, and the Internet, turned up no information on this company. However, EPA reported to IDEM that they had a document linking a "Pb Company" in Silver Lake, Kosciusko County, Indiana to the Four County Landfill in Fulton County, Indiana. The North Manchester, Wabash County, phone books had a listing for "PB Company" on State Road 15 North in Silver Lake from 1980 to 1983. While staff at the Silver Lake City Clerk's office had no information about Pb Company, IDEM files contained a Notification of Hazardous Waste Activity for Pb Company Inc. dated September 29, 1982, confirming the existence of the facility on State Road 15 North in Silver Lake. IDEM staff also searched the files associated with Potentially Responsible Parties (PRP) for the Four County Landfill Superfund site and discovered that Pb Co was listed as a PRP for hauling over 140 cubic yards of waste to this landfill in December, 1982. Four County Landfill documents on Pb Co included manifests of the waste deliveries and an invoice from Environmental Waste Control to haul the waste for Pb Co. The address on the invoice listed P.B. Company-Silver Lake, Messenger Corp, 318 E 7th Street, Auburn, IN 46706. The Pb Co file also contained a handwritten note that listed the "Corporate" contact for Pb Co as Messenger Corp, Attn: Ken Moudy, 318 E 7th St, Auburn, IN 46706. IDEM staff called Kevin Keane, General Manager of Messenger Corp, who mentioned that the former secretary of Messenger Corp used to keep the books for Pb Co, but that a company named Dot Group out of Fort Wayne actually owned both Pb Co and Messenger Corp. An Internet search for Dot Group listed Ken Moudy as an associate and IDEM staff called Mr. Moudy on February 27, 2012. Ken informed IDEM staff that Dot Group was a primary stakeholder of Pb Co and that they were planning to crack batteries in a separate Illinois facility and then recycle the lead at the Silver Lake facility. He also said that Pb Co spent a couple of years getting their processes in proper working order but were only in actual operation for a little less than a year and closed down in 1983. Mr. Moudy could not remember the address of the Pb Co facility but remembered that it was located on State Road 15 in between the Parkan facility and the Kerlin School Bus facility. He said that Dot Group continued to own the building and rented it to Metzger Trucking as a warehouse after Pb Co closed down until they sold the building to Metzger Trucking in 2007. An IDEM file on Metzger & Sons Warehouse, dated January of 2007, lists the site contact as Kenneth Moudy of Dot Group LLC and the address as 9136 State Road 15, Silver Lake, Indiana. IDEM and EPA do not anticipate that this site will move forward under CERCLA action because a map.google.com search and a drive-by visit revealed that there are not enough receptors in the area for the site to score under Superfund actions. However, IDEM does intend to conduct a site screening this spring to determine if there were releases of lead to the soil on-site and on the few nearby farmhouse properties.

Thank you for your continued concern about the health and safety of the citizens of Indiana regarding historic

lead smelting activities. Please feel free to contact IDEM if you have any further questions about these or the other Indiana sites listed in the Eckel report.

Sincerely,

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